

protestors, injuring many of them. Several have been admitted to Civil Hospital, Malout. Eight protestors were arrested. The police used tear gas on the demonstrators. Two people suffered bullet wounds, according to the article.

The demonstrators were protesting against a so-called religious function organized by the Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan which was aimed at undermining the Sikh religion and slandering the Sikh gurus, according to the Times of India.

"Like the attack on the Golden Temple, this incident shows that there is no place in India for Sikhs," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland declared independent on October 7, 1987. "The Indian government is dedicated to wiping out the Sikh religion," he said. "Nations that do not have political power perish. The only way to ensure that the Sikh religion can survive is to liberate Khalistan as soon as possible," he said.

"This attack shows that India is not a democracy, despite its pretensions," said Dr. Aulakh. "Democracies don't attack minorities and minority religions. Democracies don't commit genocide."

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. These figures were published in the book "The Politics of Genocide" by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. India has also killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 80,000 Kashmiris since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities.

A report issued last year by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. On February 28, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to President Bush to urge him to work for the release of Sikh political prisoners. The MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]"

In November 1994, the Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert terrorist activity in Punjab, Khalistan, and in neighboring Kashmir. The book "Soft Target", written by Canadian journalists Brian McAndrew and Zuhair Kashmeri, shows that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985 to blame Sikhs and justify further repression. It quotes an agent of the Canadian Security Investigation Service (CSIS) as saying, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver. We know it and they know it that they are involved." On January 2, the Washington Times reported that India sponsors cross-border terrorism in the Pakistani province of Sindh.

Christians have been victims of a campaign of terror that has been going on since Christmas 1998. Churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked, nuns have been raped, and priests have been killed. Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were burned alive

while they slept in their jeep by militant Hindu members of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. Earlier this year, over 5,000 Muslims were murdered by Hindus in Gujarat, according to The Hindu. These attacks were planned by the government, according to human-rights organizations, and news reports quoted a police officer as saying they had orders not to intervene to stop the violence.

"India's efforts to eliminate the Sikh religion are doomed to fail," Dr. Aulakh said. "This terrible act of police brutality shows that India is neither secular nor democratic, and it is time to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that the Sikh Nation can finally enjoy the glow of freedom that was promised to us in 1947. Sovereignty is our birthright, and self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy. It is time for self-determination for all the peoples of South Asia."

[From the Hindu, April 16, 2002]

GUJARAT RIOT TOLL COULD BE UP TO 5,000

JAIPUR, April 15.—Various social and political groups and human rights organizations, which held a public meeting here over the week-end to protest against the recent violence in Gujarat, demanded removal of the Narendra Modi Government and spoke out against the move to hold elections to the State Assembly prior to the return of normalcy.

The meeting addressed by K.S. Subramanyam, former Director-General of Police, Tripura; Magsaysay Award winner, Aruna Roy; noted economist, Prabhat Patnaik; Renuka Khanna, PUCL Activist from Baroda in Gujarat and others, asked for immediate steps to restore people's faith in the system in the riot-ravaged Gujarat.

Presenting the report of a delegation comprising prominent citizens who toured the affected areas of Gujarat, Mr. Subramanyam, who was a member of the delegation, said the police in Gujarat had extended a helping hand to the rioters on the instructions of the Chief Minister, Narendra Modi.

The official records speak of over 700 casualties in Gujarat riots but they had learnt that the number of those killed could be between 2,000 and 5,000, he observed. "Senior administrative as well as police officers confided with us that in a meeting with the officials called on the eve of the VHP-announced bandh of February 28, Mr. Modi had asked them to honour Hindu sentiments". This directive made the officers passive spectators to what went on in Gujarat on the day of bandh and thereafter, Mr. Subramanyam said.

He also said the delegation could see that the Godhra carnage itself was not the result of any pre-planned strategy but the outcome of a tussle between the Kar Sevaks in the train and the people living in the slum clusters near the railway station. Ms. Renuka Khanna said the police colluding with the rioters to wreak havoc with the lives and property of the minority community, would only lead to the birth of terrorism.

Ms. Aruna Roy said it was for villagers to preserve the pluralistic culture of India's rural areas and stop trouble-makers from disturbing the social fabric.

Prof. Patnaik traced the roots of the social and communal unrest to the growing unemployment and poverty in the wake of globalisation.

The meeting, which held the Gujarat Government, its police and administration fully responsible for the killings in that State, also found them guilty of discriminating against the victims and their families later, as well by denying them relief and compensation. By giving a clean chit to Mr.

Modi, the National Democratic Alliance Government at the Centre too shared the guilt of the genocide in Gujarat, the meeting noted.

TRIBUTE TO JIM AMOS FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Amos for his contributions to the San Diego community. Jim retired this month as President and CEO of Mail Boxes Etc., Inc., which is headquartered in my district.

Jim's professional accomplishments are indeed laudable. What I want to recognize today, however, is the mark Jim has left on San Diego through his commitment to philanthropy.

In 1998, Jim founded the MBE We Deliver Dreams Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of children who are victims of abuse, neglect, poverty, violence or illness.

The MBE Foundation has grown rapidly since its founding, and in that time has delivered numerous dreams to children throughout the world. I am particularly grateful for the Foundation's Community Care Fund; a separate fund dedicated to making dreams come true for San Diego youth.

Jim may be departing the San Diego community, but he is leaving an indelible impression upon it, and for that I thank him. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jim's commitment to charity and his success with the MBE Foundation, both of which serve as examples to us all.

IN RECOGNITION OF JEFF LUDWIG, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF NAI MICHAEL COS.

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to Mr. Jeff Ludwig, senior vice president of Nai Michael Cos. As a result of his personal initiative to become a community emergency response team member, Mr. Ludwig was able to assist the community of La Plata, Maryland in constructing a new Town Center after it was hit by a powerful tornado in April 2002. After President Bush's State of the Union Address in January, Mr. Ludwig responded to the President's call to volunteerism by signing up for the Citizen Corps to become a member of the new emergency response group. He took advantage of online training manuals and completed his course, despite the fact that the Homeland Security Program had not yet begun to train citizen volunteers. This motivation prepared him to assist his community on April 28. It also makes him one of the first citizens corps community emergency response team leaders to take actions in the Nation's history.

When the tornado struck La Plata, Mr. Ludwig teamed up with the Facchina Group to